



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
 Executive Office of Public Safety and Security  
 Department of Fire Services



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**To:** Heads of Fire Department  
**From:** Peter J. Ostroskey, State Fire Marshal  
**Date:** November 1, 2019  
**Subject: Cooking Fire Safety Campaign: Let's Reduce Cooking Fires this Holiday Season**

The Department of Fire Services will continue its cooking public awareness campaign this fall to support local fire departments efforts to educate the public on cooking fire safety. Cooking is the leading cause of home fires, home fire injuries, and home fire injuries to those over 65. Thanksgiving is the #1 day for home fires and cooking is of course the leading cause. This is a good time of year to emphasize cooking safety to our residents. The campaign has two key messages: "Stand by your Pan" to prevent cooking fires and "Put a Lid on It" to respond safely to stovetop fires.

**Cooking Fire Safety Campaign Toolkit**

I hope that the [Cooking Campaign Toolkit](#) will be helpful to you in your efforts to reduce the number of cooking fires this holiday season. Feel free to use the logos in your materials and the public service announcement on cable TV or in presentations. The toolkit also has bookmarks, a cooking safety lesson, a customizable local press release, safety pamphlets in English, Spanish, and Portuguese, and artwork for banners or transit ads. New this year, we have added two new recipe card handouts that feature our firehouse chefs, their recipes, and cooking safety tips. To find the toolkit, go to [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) and search on *DFS Public Awareness Campaigns* or *Cooking Fire Safety Toolkit*. To obtain the new recipe cards in quantity, contact the Fire Data and Public Education Unit at (978) 567-3381.



**Cooking Safety Prop – "The Hazard Kitchen"**

The Fire Data and Public Education Unit also has several cooking safety props – Hazard Kitchens – that fire departments can borrow to use in demonstrations of cooking safety. In an emergency, people will fall back on what they have practiced. So let's get them to practice putting a lid on a stovetop fire.